Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the title as follows:

IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING METHOD WITH SYNCHRONOUS AND ASYNCHRONOUS CONTROL FOR CONTINUOUS OPERATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph at page 10, lines 13-22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The image processor 96 has a compression/expansion circuit 96a. This compression/expansion circuit 96a compresses the document image data read by the scanner unit 4 and stores in an HDD (hard disk drive) 70. Further, the compression/expansion circuit 96a reads compressed image data from the HDD 70 and applies the expansion process to the read image data. Further, [[he]] the image processor 96 executes the image process such as the trimming, masking, etc. to image data input from the scanner unit 4. The print font ROM 121 stores font data corresponding to such code data as character codes.